

NOES—26.

1 Mr. T. K. Alexander	14 Mr. E. K. Kunjuraman
2 „ V. T. Chacko	15 „ K. M. Kuriakose
3 „ C. V. Chandrasekharan	16 „ C. O. Madhavan
4 „ S. Chattanatha Karayalar	17 „ K. Madhavan
5 „ Antony George	18 „ B. Narayana Pillai
6 „ K. George	19 „ P. K. Narayana Pillai
7 „ L. H. Jacob	20 „ G. Nilakantan
8 „ N. John Joseph	21 „ R. Nilakanta Pillai
9 „ T. C. Joseph	22 „ N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
10 „ K. C. Karunakaran	23 „ Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai
11 „ T. T. Kesavan Sastri	
12 Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai	24 „ T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar
13 Mr. C. V. Kunjuraman	25 „ P. K. Thomas
	26 „ T. C. Thommen

NEUTRALS—5.

1 Mr. N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib	4 Mr. R. Sambasiva Aiyar
2 „ M. Mahomed Haneef	5 „ John Whiteley
3 „ P. C. Narayanan	Tolson
Bhattatiripad	

The resolution, as amended, was declared carried.

The following resolution was not moved :—

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : This Assembly recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken for more efficient and useful management of the Carpentry and Smithery School at Quilon.

NIGHT SCHOOLS.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:

“This assembly recommends to the Government that night schools be established in the important towns imparting a prescribed course of general education to skilled artisans residing in them.”

No system of education of a civilized country can be said to be perfect which makes no provision for the education of the adult population. A system like ours which does not make provision for compulsory education must be considered to be imperfect. There are in this country a huge army of expert labourers from all castes and communities working in Government institutions and factories and firms owned by foreigners and natives. These men who are expert mechanics and master craftsmen suffer from one defect. Because they have no general education, they always remain as head coolies and nothing more. European countries, both for ordinary and skilled labourers, there are night schools wherein they are taught the general principle of their profession. The system of education we follow is only a true adaptation of the west. Then why not Travancore adopt that night school system also? If at all we begin to adopt a system, we must do it in its entirety and in all its aspects.

Again, it is also learnt that in factories and firms in civilized countries, skilled men, men of exceptional ability, are given particular education and training so that they may be associated with the management of business at least in times of necessity—

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am not able to hear the member.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): In firms and factories of civilized countries, men of exceptional skill are given technical and general education to improve their knowledge in the scientific principles of their profession, so that they may be associated with the general management and direction till they get to the top. Unfortunately, in our countries, skilled men, who are employed in Government institutions and factories, remain, as I said before, as coolies to the very end of their life. If night schools are established and they are taught general and technical sides of education I am sure, skilled men will be able to take part in the management. Now, Sir, in the various institutions in which skilled members are employed, the actual work is really carried on by these people only. But the pay they get is very low and they never get to the top because they do not possess either general education or scientific skill.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): How does the general education obtaining in schools help these skilled men to get promotion?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): The system of English education makes them eligible for improved prospects. I will give an instance. There are in this country men who are very smart mechanics, not only well-versed in the handling of plant and machinery but who know all complications even in the up-to-date machinery.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Am I to understand the member to say that those persons who are clever mechanics are kept out, because they have not acquired the necessary general education?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Exactly.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Does not the member realise that recent recruits to such places are those who have already acquired such general education?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): But they do not get sufficient education. I say, the general education should be taught to a greater extent. Then only, they will be fit to take the place of management. With these words, I move the motion.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur cum Pattanapuram*): Sir, I support the motion. There is no doubt that there is something very rotten in the system of training obtaining in this institution. The method, it appears to me, is somewhat unsuitable to the conditions in Travancore. The other day a carpenter trained in this school came to me and asked me whether I could not get him a clerk's post somewhere. He was then conducting a farm in Konni. Government had given him about 10 acres of land.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Which is the resolution that the member is supporting? We are now dealing with the resolution about night schools, Sir?

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur cum Pattanapuram*): Sir, I support that resolution also. It will be a very useful thing to find out means whereby the general knowledge of not only carpenters but of all mechanics and artisans in general could be improved; and the best means, so far as I can think of, is to start night schools.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Should that be confined to the artisan class alone?

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur cum Pattanapuram*): Not necessarily.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The resolution relates to skilled artisans alone. Is there any objection to extend it to unskilled artisans also?

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur cum Pattanapuram*): The resolution lays stress on the needs of the skilled artisans, because, if they get general knowledge, they will be in a position to display their skill as artisans better than they do at present.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The resolution speaks of general education; but I thought Mr. Nilakantan was speaking of giving the skilled artisans in the country facilities for higher professional education. I wish to know from the member whether he speaks about general education or about higher professional education.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur cum Pattanapuram*): The resolution speaks of prescribing a course of general education to skilled artisans.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): But Mr. Nilakantan, I thought, was speaking about professional education.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur cum Pattanapuram*): That is not my fault. I am supporting the resolution and not the mover's speech.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether unskilled artisans do not stand in need of general education?

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur cum Pattanapuram*): There may be several classes of people who need general education; but, the resolution now before the House relates only to skilled artisans; and I am supporting it. If another resolution for the provision of general education for unskilled artisans or for other comes up before the House, I will support that also.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): തൊഴിലാളികൾക്ക് പകൽ സമയത്തു സാധാരണ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ലഭിക്കുന്നതിന് പ്രയാസം ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് രാത്രിയിൽ അവർക്ക് സാധാരണ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസംകൊടുക്കണം എന്നൊരു റസല്യൂഷനിൽ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The member has already resumed his seat. —

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (Changanachery I) : Sir, I support the resolution. This resolution is part of the very wide problem of adult education : and the mover of the resolution has narrowed it down to the narrowest possible limit. As Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai suggested in his question, this is really a very wide problem and a matter for the deep consideration of the Education Department. Our student life now comes to an end, practically, at an early age, and every man and woman has then to begin the real fight in life for his or for her subsistence. That is a fact which we have to take into consideration. We are spending huge sums of money on education in the State. Now that the struggle for existence is so keen, nobody can afford to spend more than a limited number of years for acquiring general knowledge. Therefore, the authorities of the Education Department have to find out some means for imparting general education even to grown-up persons who, by the nature of their means of livelihood, could not, in their younger days, go in for general cultural education. This, to a great extent, is the case with the artisan classes and the members of the depressed classes. It is only in recent years that the Government have been giving some facilities and encouragement and concessions to the children of the depressed classes for studying at school. But, when those among them who are now grown up were young, they had none of these concessions and they could not get any general education. Therefore, we now find a number of these people who are absolutely illiterate, absolutely uneducated. There are also many artisans and skilled workers who have not had the opportunity to get themselves educated. Therefore, I would request the authorities of the Education Department to consider the question in its broader aspect and to approach it with a generous spirit and adopt a constructive policy.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (Kalkulam I) : Is it the member's view that night schools should be started only in towns and not in the mofussil?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (Changanachery I) : From what I have already stated, it would have been clear, I thought that I wanted a broad constructive policy to be followed.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (Kalkulam I) : Is it not necessary to open night schools in village parts in Travancore?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (Changanachery I) : I do not think that the question deserves an answer from me. There are so many things that we want. But the question whether we can immediately have all that we want is an entirely different matter. What we now ask Government to do is to take the first step forward in this direction, so that, in the near future, we can have night schools in as many places in the country as necessary.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (Kalkulam I) : May I know whether the member lays emphasis on the broad aspect and wide scope of the resolution?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (Changanachery I) : Certainly, I have approached the motion in its broad aspect and I have now repeated it many times.

Mr. Nilakantan has recommended to Government the need for imparting instruction, by night schools, to skilled artisans. I find a certain amount of propriety in that suggestion. In our country, at present, education and work are most unfortunately kept in two separate water-tight compartments having no mutual relationship between them. That has been the main complaint, both in the press and on the platform, about our system of education. The present education has nothing to do with actual life, they say. It is simply an accumulation of culture : and a certain amount of professional and utilitarian elements has to be introduced into it. That is one aspect of the question. On the other hand, as against these people who have studied just a little of history, geography and mathematics and who have absolutely no practical knowledge whatever of actual life in the world, we have another set of persons who are expert workmen but who are absolutely illiterate. A combination of these two, work and culture, will certainly be immensely useful to the country, and will complete each other beautifully. Therefore, as I said, there is a particular propriety in recommending the need of cultural education for workmen. I therefore hope that this resolution, of Mr. G. Nilakantan, will receive sympathetic consideration at the hands of the authorities of the Education Department.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kottarakara*) : Sir, I oppose the resolution. The mover recommends to Government the establishment of night schools in towns only. His intention, obviously, is to benefit a few skilled artisans dwelling in towns. But, as a matter of fact the necessity for night schools is more keenly felt in country parts than in towns ; because, the vast majority of illiterate adults are living in villages, and only a few of them reside in towns.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : Does the member realise that, if we take into account a restricted area, a sufficient number of skilled artisans could be found only in towns ?

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kottarakara*) : There are skilled artisans in villages also. So far as the artisans in towns are concerned, they have even now better facilities for education than the illiterate adults in the villages.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Is there better facility in towns for adult education ?

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kottarakara*) : I do not object to the establishment of night schools in towns, and the mover seems to object to the establishment of night schools in villages. The mover restricts the establishment of them in towns alone ; that is rather deplorable.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*) : Does the resolution contain the words, only in town ?

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kottarakara*) : But, I want the resolution to include the rural parts also. That is why I oppose it.

The resolution is restricted in another aspect also. It is intended only for the benefit of artisans, only skilled artisans. There are very many labourers in towns who are not artisans. I do not see any reason

[Mr. A. Easwara Pillai.]

why they should not get the facilities of studying in night schools. As it has been moved, I do think that the resolution is limited in its scope and sectarian in spirit. I therefore strongly oppose it.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): I oppose the resolution because it is one of the narrowest resolutions I have ever seen. Not only that. The question raised in the resolution can afford to wait till a broad-based programme of night schools is ushered in. Night schools are certainly a necessity to which this House must attend. Now, the mover of the resolution has managed to limit the scope of his resolution as narrowly as possible; and I heartily congratulate him for his success in that direction. His resolution is intended for towns, and that only for artisans living in towns, and not for all artisans, but only for skilled artisans. If an unskilled artisan goes to the door of the night school and seeks admission, Mr. Nilakantan will say 'No, you will not be admitted here; this school is intended only for skilled artisans.' I do not see the justification for this discrimination between skilled and unskilled artisans. This restriction—

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the member.....

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): (at the same time as Mr. Sivatanu Pillai): It is not only the skilled artisans that need education.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): On a point of order, Sir, two members are talking simultaneously.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Sivatanu Pillai wants to ask a question, Mr. Krishna Pillai.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): I am not prepared to answer any question, Sir.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is not courtesy, Mr. Krishna Pillai. Mr. Sivatanu Pillai, if he likes, may put the question.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I do not propose to put any question to the member, Sir.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You may then go on with your speech, Mr. Krishna Pillai.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Sir, can a member say that he is not prepared to answer a question?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I think it is not courtesy shown to any member. Mr. Sivatanu Pillai if he likes to put a question may put the question.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Then I shall answer his question.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I do not propose to put a question to Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): It is generally an unskilled artisan that stands to gain more by acquiring general education. If want of skill consists in his inability to read up-to-date literature on the subject in which he is engaged, he must be helped

by providing him with the means to come in contact with new schemes or new changes in his sphere of profession. But Mr. Nilakantan says 'you have no place here because you are unskilled.' On the other hand, Sir, the skilled artisan can make money and he can engage a private tutor if he does not find it uncomfortable to retain him. So, this restriction has spoiled the spirit of the resolution. And I would certainly ask this House not to vote for this resolution lest we should be taken for those who have lost sight of a broader policy in our craze for adhering to a very limited suggestion. Then, Mr. Nilakantan has not made out any case at all for the position he has taken, that the artisans engaged in towns are wanting in general education. That is the difficulty. Probably he may have in view some old fellow, who certainly did not come under the new system of education and who is very clever only in one branch of the activities of artisans, carpentry, smithery, or anything like that, who may stand in need of such education. It might be that the benefit of modern education was denied to such men when they entered life and that they could not get into schools because there were no schools then. It is only in the case of such people that such general education need be imparted. On the other hand, in a motor driver or an electrician or even a rickshawalla whom we see towns, Sir, has acquired a sufficient degree of general education under the modern system of instruction. We do not see anybody in towns below the age of 35 or 40 who has not already acquired general education, probably equal to that attained by some occupying higher position in life. So it is not a growing need. It is only a declining need. Mr. Nilakantan wants only those men to be benefited whose ranks are fastly thinning. We ought to provide for future generations who ought to be of use to this State. In that view also, such a concesssion is not at all called for.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, I oppose the motion. I am sorry, some of us are sorry, and many of us are sorry, to have to oppose the resolution before the House. This resolution that has been moved by the champion of skilled artisans, Mr. Nilakantan, we are compelled to oppose because the suggestion by itself is narrow in vision, bigoted in idea, conservative in idealism and unacceptable in its entirety. Sir, the resolution applies only to skilled artisans who shall be given general education by starting night schools. On the other hand, it is admitted by all that the unskilled artisans, the young artisans, require general education and not the old people. By a skilled artisan is meant a person who is aged with one foot in the grave and such a person, Sir, does not stand in need of general education in the State at all. If the younger generation who are employed in the various factories and other places and who pursue various professions are given general education by starting night schools, there is no objection in doing so. But since the resolution is worded as it stands, and further, since the gentleman who supported the resolution was reluctant when questioned to widen the scope of the resolution, I oppose it.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Let me begin by saying that Government have adequately recognised

[Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan.]

and realised the importance of night schools as a means of general education for adults for some years now. I think it is more than fifteen years since the first set of rules for the management and administration of night schools were prepared by the department and sanctioned by the Government. Five years later, in 1923, Government called upon the department to revise the rules and to extend and make more generous the concessions given to private night schools. I would like, Sir, to place before the House an extract from the Government Order of 1923 which says:

"In view of the low percentage of literacy among several communities and of the genuine demand for night school instruction on the part of the adults among them, Government considered it desirable to bring about a network of night schools throughout the State to be opened by private agencies with the help of grant-in-aid from the Government. The Director of Public Instruction was accordingly asked to submit for the approval of Government rules for the better administration and management of night schools."

So, far, then, as night schools are concerned, Sir, I contend that the Government have adequately recognised their importance and usefulness. But the Government's policy as at present advised has been that private effort should be encouraged by means of grant-in-aid. Mr. Nilakantan apparently proposes that night schools should be started and conducted under departmental management. I think, Sir, that it is a change of policy which Government cannot be called upon to accept just at this moment when the Statham Report and Statham recommendations are being awaited. Adult education, as Mr. Padmanabha Pillai pointed out, is one of the most important aspects of general education. It is important from the political point of view, it is important from the economic and social point of view. Some of the members might recollect the very caustic remark that a British statesman made when the Elementary Education Act was being passed in England. Soon after the labouring classes had been enfranchised, he said "we must now educate our masters". When democratic institutions are introduced and the franchise is widened, it is very necessary that, by as quick and as rapid methods as possible, we create a literate and an educated electorate. But I am not concerned, Sir, so much with the political importance as with the social and economic importance of adult education. It seems to me that it is the most successful and the most necessary method by which all that we imply by rural uplift and rural reconstruction can be effected. How much has been achieved by adult education, for instance, folk-schools in Denmark and the University Extension work and the work of the Workers' Educational Association in England is well known to students of education. But here in India adult education has been in a very backward condition. I am not sure whether some of our night schools are not bogus schools. In the administration report of last year we find about 27 night schools in which there are about 750 pupils. How many of these schools are working regularly and satisfactorily I cannot personally say.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanacherry I*): Is any kind of inspection conducted?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Personally I have some knowledge of the night schools conducted in Trivandrum. But I have no personal knowledge of the night schools conducted outside Trivandrum. But, as I was saying, these schools are under the control and supervision of the Assistant Inspectors of Vernacular Schools. They are already over-burdened with the inspection of the regular day-schools. I am not at all sure whether the inspection of these night schools is being conducted as satisfactorily as they might be conducted. Anyhow, Sir, it is very important that not only by means of night schools but by means of various other forms of adult education, lantern lectures, village libraries, educational cinema films and radio and broad-casting, for instance, the adult population who have been deprived of the benefits of education and culture should get some knowledge of modern life and modern ideas. That is a matter which no one will contest.

The real trouble Sir, is partly with regard to funds and partly with regard to the nature of the policy that should be adopted by the Government—whether Government should directly and by departmental organisation conduct these institutions for adult education or whether they should give generous grants for encouraging private effort. In view, Sir, of the fact that this question of adult education has been placed before the Statham Committee as a definite term of reference by the preliminary committee which drafted the agenda for the Statham Committee and in view of the certainty that the Statham Committee will make recommendations about this matter I would request Mr. Nilakantan to withdraw his resolution. In view also of the rather unexpected and warm opposition which his resolution has met with from various unexpected quarters, I hope he will realise that it is wiser not to press this resolution, which, according to some of the speakers, is rather couched in narrow terms.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): May I know from the member whether, even in the interval before the Statham Committee Report is acted upon, the existing rules permit of liberal grants being awarded for private schools?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): That is so. Every night school can get for every teacher in that school, if the teacher has no other employment, Rs. 5 per month. If the teacher is otherwise also employed, he gets Rs. 3 a month. There is also one rupee paid as grant for lighting expenses for every calendar month. Any private enterprise will receive due consideration and recognition at the hands of the department.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): May I take it also that more efficient inspection will be conducted?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am afraid I cannot give a promise now. The strength of the inspection staff is small and the work they have to turn out is very heavy.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know why we cannot accept the resolution? Is it not due to the fault in the wording of the resolution?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I agree. The resolution is worded in rather narrow terms.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Sir, I want to say one word by way of explanation. Somehow or other the word artisan is a red bull to some of the members here. I did not refer to any particular caste at all. I know that the system of opening night schools for all adult population is a costly affair.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know what the member means when he says that the artisan is a red bull?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): There has been a lot of opposition.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know the grounds on which it was opposed?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Simply on account of the use of the word artisan.

I know that the system of opening night schools throughout the State is a costly affair. I know that Government will not be in a position to do it. Therefore I narrowed my resolution.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is 4-30 P. M. It does not seem that the debate on this resolution will conclude soon. The House will therefore adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned *sine die* at 4-30 P. M.

K. MADHAVA KURUP,

Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.